

GEORGE S. DOUGHERTY ANALYZES THE BALLOU MYSTERY

FAMOUS DETECTIVE TESTS EVIDENCE IN BALLOU CASE FOR THE EVENING WORLD

George S. Dougherty Certain Stamford Man Was Not Slain by Thief, Enemy or Rival, and Doubts Theory of Intentional Homicide.

Former Deputy Police Commissioner Dougherty's answers to four questions proposed by himself regarding the cause of the death of Waldo R. Ballou at Stamford are as follows:

Was it caused by an accidental fall outside Mrs. Angle's apartments, as related by her?—It is entirely possible. If true, there is much to be added to her narrative.

Was it caused by a blow received inside Mrs. Angle's apartment when they were alone together?—Only by the explanation of an outbreak of temper, already nervously irritated, aroused by an unusual act and causing an assault entirely innocent of homicidal intent.

Was it caused by an attack by a third person in Mrs. Angle's apartment?—It is barely possible, but most unlikely.

Was it caused by an attack by a third person, possibly a thief, unknown to Mrs. Angle, outside the apartment?—It was certainly not a thief, and Mr. Ballou had no enemies.

By George S. Dougherty
of Dougherty's Detective Agency, Former Deputy Commissioner of Police, New York City, and Former Superintendent Pinkerton's National Detective Agency.

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It is now fifteen days since Waldo R. Ballou, a Councilman of Stamford, Conn., was found dead near the home of his best woman friend. It has been interesting and profitable

to the suggestion of The Evening World to go to Stamford at this time and take an unprejudiced and new view of all the evidence regarding Mr. Ballou's death, and analyze such of it as has stood the test of careful investigation. I find just four explanations of varying impressiveness for the death of Mr. Ballou.

At 11:30 P. M. Tuesday, June 23, a citizen found a man dying on the sidewalk in front of the entrance of the Rippowam Building on Main street, Stamford. Fifteen feet away two are lights burned brightly. Ten feet away was Robert Merritt, a watchman for a milk company. An employee of a sewing machine company was in the building very close to the spot where the body was found; he was going over some accounts.

Though not dead, the injured man was unconscious. His face and clothing were so disfigured that he could not be identified by the members of the police force, the hospital employees and others. At the hospital one hour later, just before he died, the body was identified through

Waldo R. Ballou, sixty-nine years old, well known to every man, woman and child in Stamford. An investigation was begun. Councilman Beck, who was present, thought it peculiar that the dead man's hat was missing and, with Chief of Police Brennan and others, searched for the hat in the vestibule of the building. They found bloody footprints on the cement floor, followed them, first up one flight of stairs and then, with more difficulty, up another flight to the door of the living rooms of Mrs. Helen M. Angle.

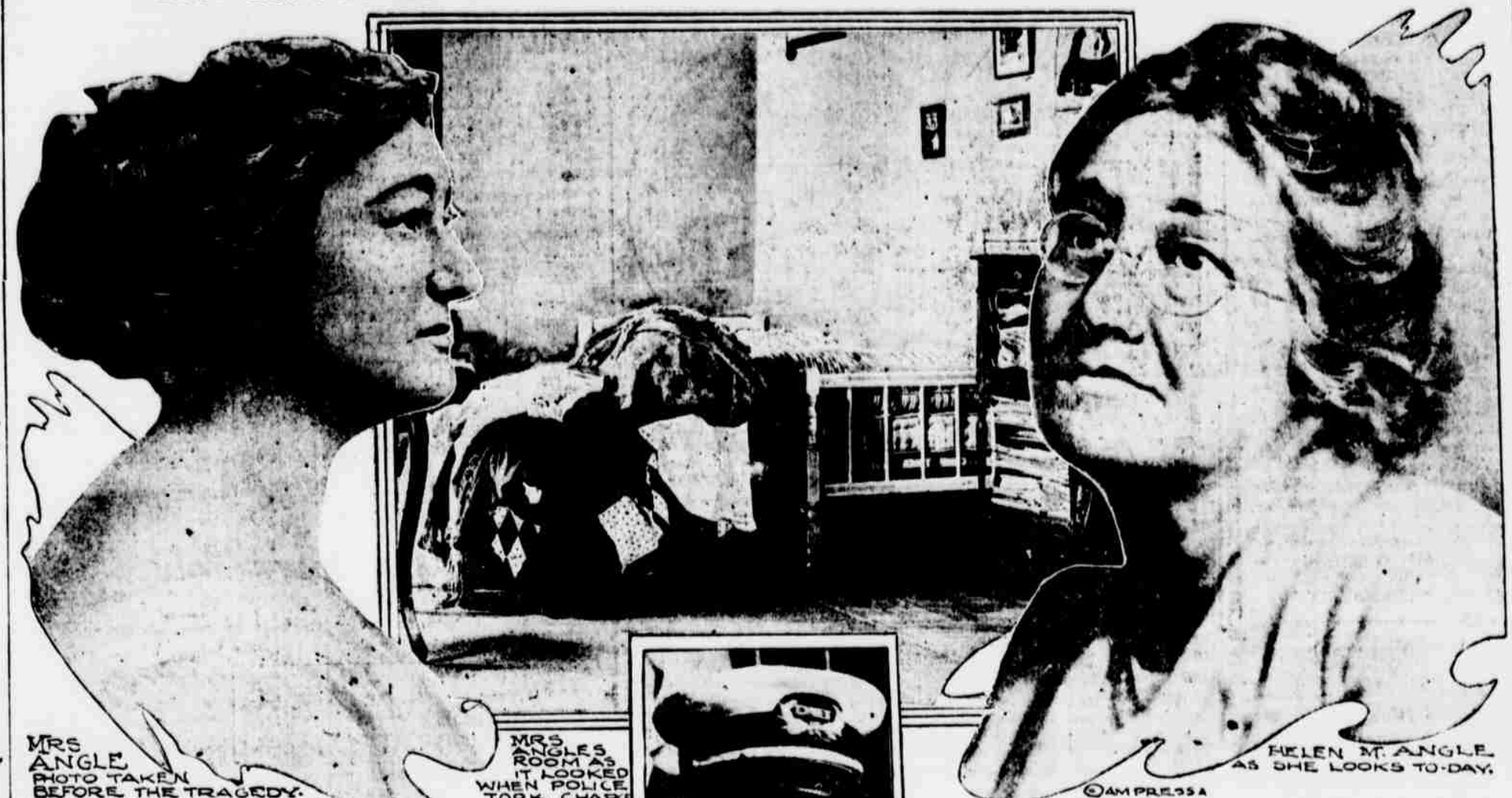
Meanwhile, when the identity of the deceased was established the investigators immediately remembered that Ballou was the constant companion and close friend of Mrs. Angle, who was the only tenant in that part of the building where the imprints were found. Chief of Police William Brennan had known the injured man and Mrs. Angle for years. Realizing that Mr. Ballou might have met with foul play he made a very searching investigation.

In a closet at the end of a hall outside Mrs. Angle's rooms he found a jack-knife, subsequently identified as the property of Mr. Ballou, and in a box on a porch outside the window of this room he found a cloth soaked with blood which he thought had been used for cleaning floors, and a broken wine bottle from which the cork had never been removed.

Chief Brennan then knocked at Mrs. Angle's door. She asked who was there. The chief informed her who he was. She asked again who was there. She waited for some moments, then opened the door slightly and said she wanted to talk with the chief alone. He entered her rooms, did not close the door. Mrs. Angle was dressed in a kimono, her feet were bare.

She said in substance that Mr. Ballou

Mrs. Helen Angle Before and After the Ballou Tragedy; Her Room as Police Found It and Nemesis Who Forced Arrest



MRS. ANGLE PHOTO TAKEN BEFORE THE TRAGEDY.

MRS. ANGLE'S ROOM AS IT LOOKED WHEN POLICE TOOK CHARGE OF IT.

HELEN M. ANGLE AS SHE LOOKS TO-DAY.

walk, thinking it would be best for him to get some air; she did not notify the police or call for assistance at the time, fearing that she would receive some notoriety. She said Mr. Ballou left her apartment at 10:30, but prior to that he had gone out to get a drink and had returned, and that the reason he fell down the stairs was that he was intoxicated when he left her. She also stated that she had wiped off the landing with the rag which was found by the chief in the box outside the closet window. She said that when Mr. Ballou left her flat she was not in her bare feet, but that she started to undress immediately after Mr. Ballou left and was in her bare feet when she removed him to the sidewalk. When questioned about Mr. Ballou's hat, she said it had been broken on the Sunday evening previous when Mr. Ballou took a fit of weakness, and that there was a noise which she did not wish to tell unless she had to.

When she was informed the hat had been wet with blood when found, she stated she picked the hat up in the stairway, took it to her room and concealed it in the clothes chest. Regarding the death it was caused by the lid of the chest battering it in. Sgt. Nevins stated this was not so because the hat rested on two stairway railings at the bottom of the chest far below the closed lid. In Mrs. Angle's room the police also found a black blood-stained overskirt and an electric flatiron.

The theory of the police and of the prosecution is that Mr. Ballou was struck with the flatiron or some similar instrument, but they have not been able to establish this definitely.

NO NOISE OF A SCUFFLE HEARD IN THE BUILDING.

A most rigid investigation by the authorities fails to show that any person in the building or near the building where Mr. Ballou's body was found heard the slightest noise, scuffle or scuffle of any kind at any time prior to the finding of the body.

In the Singer sewing machine office directly to the left of the entrance where the body was found, an employee was engaged before and after the placing of the body on the sidewalk, and did hear a noise of any kind and had no knowledge that a body was on the sidewalk until it was found by the citizen who was passing.

Sgt. Nevins of the searching party lifted the cover of a chest and there found Mr. Ballou's hat, wet with blood and dented in front just above the brim. At the hospital an examination of Mr. Ballou's forehead showed a number of ridges, such as would be imprinted under heavy pressure by the brims of the straw hat.

The medical examiner, Dr. Weaver, said that he found evidence of a heavy blow inflicted on the upper forehead, a series of fractures of the skull around the back of the head at about the level of the ears; a cut on the bridge of the nose, and bruises and scratches on the back of the left hand and wrist. He said that a heavy blow with a flat or slightly rounded weapon might have made the wound on the forehead (where the skull is strong) and caused the circular fracture at the back of the skull (where the bone is weaker). He said that the fracture might have been caused by a fall if it were possible for Mr. Ballou to have dropped on the top of his forehead from a considerable distance. The bruises on the hand and wrist might have been caused by warding off a blow aimed at the head or might have been caused by a fall if the deceased was unable to obey the natural impulse to throw his hand out palms foremost when falling.

EVIDENCE THAT BALLOU HAD NOT BEEN ROBBED.

Money found in the clothing of the deceased at the hospital showed that he had not been robbed. In a coat pocket was found an almost empty half pint whiskey flask, the label showing it had been sold by A. Kessler of No. 205 Main street.

Although on Tuesday night at her home Mrs. Angle stated nothing had happened to Mr. Ballou up to the time he left her and that she had every reason to believe he went straight to his home, on the following day at Police Headquarters she informed the Chief of Police in the presence of witnesses that after Mr. Ballou left her room he fell down the flight of stairs opening off her room; that she picked him up, carried him downstairs and put him on the sidewalk.

Classes have not yet been positively identified as Mr. Ballou's. The nose-clip contains a tiny fragment of flesh. On the first day of the inquest when the coroner began to examine her, by advice of her counsel, Mrs. Angle refused to answer any questions. After the first inquiry before Judge Coroner Mrs. Angle was released in \$5,000 bail in the hope that a period of freedom and nursing would make her less nervous and cause her to be willing to answer questions on her refusal at an adjourned hearing to explain any of the inconsistencies in her story, she was ordered under arrest and held without bail pending the inquest.

This is practically all of the evidence fully corroborated by facts presented thus far by the prosecution's office and the police. A number of letters have been found showing that Mrs. Angle had other acquaintances than Mr. Ballou, but nothing to indicate that they were anywhere near her apartments recently or were even in Stamford. Every possibility of obtaining such information has been exhausted without the slightest positive result.

HOW COULD W. R. BALLOU HAVE COME TO HIS DEATH?

With the facts as presented, how could Waldo R. Ballou have come to his death?

How are the questions at the head of this article to be answered?

Let us analyze question No. 1. We must set against Mr. Angle's two statements: "Nothing happened to Mr. Ballou in my apartment or in the building," and "I saw him fall down the stairs after leaving my door to the landing below. I carried him to the street and laid him down." We must set against this the fact that Mr. Ballou was found on the sidewalk, and that he was found with a head wound, a cut on the forehead, and a bruise on the wrist.

We must set against it the finding in Mrs. Angle's room of blood in spots, the finding of a trail from these spots, across the hall and all the way down the steps down which he is supposed, by Mrs. Angle's statement, to have fallen before receiving the terrible blow which fractured his skull; the discovery of his hat in a chest, and his eyeglasses, which she said she did not see after his death, near her room.

We must set against it her refusal, by advice of counsel, to make any statement before the coroner, and her statement that she saw him fall down the stairs after leaving her door to the landing below. We must set in its favor the discovery of large blood spots on the middle landing, indicating that Mr. Ballou was falling, and the fact that the medical examiner is unwilling to deny that a fall might have caused the injury, were there any way in which Mr. Ballou could fall, and the fact that he was found with a head wound, a cut on the forehead, and a bruise on the wrist.

It is difficult, standing on the stairway, to imagine how such a fall could occur.

FOOTPRINTS MADE WHILE DESCENDING STAIRS BACKWARD.

If he did fall, then what Mrs. Angle described could have been done; the body from the second floor landing to the street, getting the blood-stains on the soles of her feet before descending with the body. Naturally, she descended backward with the head of the body nearest her, thereby the footprints were made to appear as if she were descending.

This might account for all the blood on the stairs, on her clothing and in her apartment, but the acknowledged effort to remove the evidence, especially from the second to the third landing, are not understandable and hardly in keeping with an innocent conscience. The removal of Mr. Ballou's hat to her living room is puzzling, unless the ordeal of carrying the body to the sidewalk so unbalanced Mrs. Angle that she failed to realize what she was doing or that she was so overcome by grief that she did not know what she was doing.

To her Mr. Ballou had been as attentive as a youthful beau; every day he journeyed from his work, a fifteen minutes' walk, to lunch with her, such a man surprised, struck Mr. Ballou or hurled him down the steps. He attracted, as he ran away, no attention on the street below from policemen and others who were constantly passing. He did not slam the door. He did not track his feet through the blood of his victim. He had not been heard moving about on the stairs or in the hall by Mrs. Angle or Mr. Ballou before he emerged. An assault by a thief must be dismissed because there was money in such quantity as he was accustomed to carry found in his pockets and his jewelry was not disturbed. The things which fell from his person, such as his hat, eyeglasses and jack-knife, were all gathered up by Mrs. Angle and thus accounted for.



POLICE CHIEF BRENNAN (AMERICAN PRESS A)

Nearly every evening they dined together; he always paid.

Mrs. Angle has suffered for several years with nervous depression. A part of her diet was sherry wine and raw egg. Mr. Ballou almost always supplied this nourishment; he paid for it. He went with her to theatres in town and the city; they were two lonely people who sought comfort in each other's company. Their tastes were similar; both liked literature, music, refined entertainment. There was never a breath of impropriety spoken of them. Mr. Ballou told of offering her his hand in marriage.

He showered her with kindnesses. Yet in face of these tender relations when he fell (as she alleges) does it appear compatible with all reason that "fearing scandal" (and there was no scandal) she should go to him, hear him speak to her in his dying moments, drag him to the sidewalk and leave him there to reason and unaided? With woman's fidelity and sympathy, finding this dear old man mortally wounded as a result of a fall, would not the first impulse be to nurse him, to call a doctor, to summon aid for relief from pain and assistance?

The first reason given for the fall by Mrs. Angle is that Mr. Ballou was intoxicated. At 9:30 the same evening he was sober or at least not under the influence of liquor. Subsequently to the police matron Mrs. Angle stated that Mr. Ballou was not intoxicated. The man he roomed with and his neighbors and associates, the police and others, say they never saw Mr. Ballou even ask for a drink. So the question of intoxication prior to the death appears to be practically eliminated.

On the other hand, if Mr. Ballou died as a result of injuries inflicted in Mrs. Angle's apartment, there is as yet no known motive for conflict—no quarrel, no jealousy, no known reason. Understanding the relations, cordial, inseparable as they were between these two people, it is difficult to conceive a motive for a quarrel or disagreement—unless an unusual spasmodic violence of temper, superinduced by some unexpected, unusual act, resulted in conflict without homicidal intent.

EVIDENTLY THERE WAS NO THIRD PERSON.

The answer to Question No. 3 is entirely negative. Nothing has indicated the presence of a lone visitor other than Mr. Ballou or her father in Mrs. Angle's apartment that night or any other night. Moreover, he went out to get her a bottle of wine; he knew there was coming back, and even had been a caller whose presence she wished to hide she could have concealed that caller from Mr. Ballou without allowing an unpleasant meeting to occur. Mrs. Angle's husband was at once sought; she divorced him many years ago; inflicting a mutual disagreement—unless a mutual disagreement. No one ever heard of his visiting her or trying to communicate with her. He was found in the employment of a street car company in Bridgeport on the day of Mr. Ballou's death and quickly made his elimination from the puzzle possible. There are many reasons why a man in Mrs. Angle's apartment might have quarreled violently with Mr. Ballou—two weeks of fine toothed raking have failed to indicate a motive. The slightest basis for belief that a third man was there.

HAD NO ENEMIES AND WAS NOT ATTACKED BY THIEF.

As to Question 4: No one in Stamford hated Mr. Ballou on account of money matters; unkind comment on the part of neighbors or associates in business; on account of brusque manners or political differences. It hasn't been shown that anybody was jealous of Mrs. Angle's infatuation with him. There have been complaints within a month of loafers and tramps getting into the building when the inner door of the vestibule was left ajar and opening in the hall all night.

such a man surprised, struck Mr. Ballou or hurled him down the steps. He attracted, as he ran away, no attention on the street below from policemen and others who were constantly passing. He did not slam the door. He did not track his feet through the blood of his victim. He had not been heard moving about on the stairs or in the hall by Mrs. Angle or Mr. Ballou before he emerged. An assault by a thief must be dismissed because there was money in such quantity as he was accustomed to carry found in his pockets and his jewelry was not disturbed. The things which fell from his person, such as his hat, eyeglasses and jack-knife, were all gathered up by Mrs. Angle and thus accounted for.

I talked with Leonard Blondel, Mrs. Angle's father, at Stamford Police Headquarters. He is a native of Maine. He is of a fine old New England type, hale, hearty and decisive—a Dunston Kirke type—severe expression, small gray eyes, a high forehead, a straight nose, a thin mustache, a thin lips, a thin mouth, a thin chin, a thin neck, a thin body, a thin mind, a thin heart, a thin soul, a thin spirit, a thin everything.

He is confident of his daughter's innocence. Mrs. Angle's mother developed tuberculosis when the child was two years old and lingered with it for ten years. She left Mr. Blondel to raise Helen. He has been her father and mother both in all these years. He says he is her confidant and she will act only on his advice. Helen was educated in Mount St. Vincent Convent, New York City, but did not adopt the Catholic or any other faith. She has suffered for several years from a nervous nervous indication, and Mr. Blondel has had her treated from time to time by many different physicians. He was a boon companion of Mr. Ballou, thought the world of him and appeared to the constant association between him and his daughter—in fact, they often dined all together. As Mrs. Angle was always guided by her father, I asked him to consent to my interviewing her in his presence. Mr. Blondel said he had no objection, but Judge Downes, her father, ordered that no one was to interview her or get any further statements from her. I was nevertheless permitted to see her.

Mrs. Angle is forty, five feet six or seven inches tall, slender and erect, but of good build. She has an abundance of brown hair, with just a little gray in it; fair-skinned, blue eyes, a straight nose, a thin mouth, rather expressive; fairly good looking, but with a cold, evasive expression of illness or pain or dejection, clearly the result of a long illness or half cries when speaking—quite natural from her surroundings. She has good sized hands, with nicely shaped, tapering fingers, and she said she had read of me and heard of me, and would like to grant me an interview about Mr. Ballou's death, but her father and her attorney positively declined to permit her to make a statement to any one. Her companion was a tiger-striped, bob-tailed cat, that appeared to enjoy the presence of a stranger.

County Prosecutor Homer S. Cummings has told me that he has some evidence which he has not yet thought it best to give to the public. Whether that evidence points to a complete exoneration of Mrs. Angle from any blame for Mr. Ballou's injury or whether the darkest of the written and spoken guesses about the tragedy are true, it is clear from Mr. Cummings' statement that he has grounds for a fixed opinion which he is confident that he will in time justify. He is of the type of prosecutor who believes that the State requires of him not conviction, but exact justice to innocent and guilty alike.

SAYS HUSBAND BEAT HER.

New York Man Is Arrested in Atlantic City Hotel.

(Special to The Evening World.) ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., July 9.—On the charge of assault and battery preferred by his wife, Martin Tiffin, a New York summer visitor was arrested at a prominent beach-front hotel soon after midnight this morning. With Tiffin were two fashionably attired women.

The assault is alleged to have occurred in an apartment at South Carolina and Atlantic avenues. Mrs. Tiffin charged that she was severely and brutally beaten before Magistrate Bontheimer. Tiffin waived hearing and gave \$500 bond to await the action of the Grand Jury.

CHILD SHOT AT PARTY; ARREST TWO PLAYMATES

Twelve-Year-Old William Coggins Mortally Hurt When Children Find Loaded Revolver.

William Coggins, aged twelve, of No. 24 West Amity street, Flushing, is in the Flushing Hospital, mortally wounded, and Harry Burroughs, eleven, and Thomas Fitzgerald, thirteen, are under arrest, as a result of a children's party at the Burroughs home, No. 8 Janet place, Flushing, last night.

The children were playing post-office when one of the boys discovered a .38-calibre revolver. The children began toying with it and one of them thrust it through the portieres and pulled the trigger. The little doggie boy fell to the floor, shot just under the heart. The Burroughs boy said the Fitzgerald boy had done it, and the Fitzgerald boy said it was the Burroughs boy, so the police arrested both.

William F. Burroughs, the father and owner of the gun, was arrested on a charge of violating the Sullivan law. On this charge Burroughs was arraigned in the Flushing Police Court this morning, but was released when he produced a permit to have a revolver in his possession issued by a Justice of the Peace in Patchogue. Harry Burroughs and Thomas Fitzgerald were paroled in the custody of their parents.

Body of Father Found.

LAKE HOPATCONG, N. J., July 9.—The body of Milton E. Ludenberg was found floating in the lake two hundred yards from where he went down on July 4. Jerome Knight found the body. Ludenberg was spending the Fourth with the family of John B. Everett of Orange, and was drowned while bathing.

RECORD WHEAT CROP WILL NOT CUT PRICES; BEEF SOARING IN WEST

Great Yield Here Offset by Only Average World Supply—Shortage of Cattle.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—Despite a wheat crop estimate this year of 930,000,000 bushels, the largest on record, no hope is held out by the Department of Agriculture for greatly reduced prices. Such a large crop would augur very low prices, according to a statement to-day, were it not that the world crops of wheat and competing grains do not promise more than the average of recent years.

Besides, more than the usual diversion of wheat from its use as food to the use of feed for live stock may be expected because of the present relatively short supply of corn in sections where there is a promise of abundant wheat.

CHICAGO, July 10.—Cattle prices are advancing rapidly at Chicago and all other Western primary shipping points, and Chicago dealers were today forecasting \$10 and even \$12 beef before next winter. At Kansas City yesterday cattle on the hoof reached the highest point in a year. The receipts have fallen off at Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and Omaha to a degree unprecedented for this season.

Packers and shippers said to-day that the scarcity of cattle and the consequent increase in prices are the result of the drought last fall, which compelled the raisers to rush their cattle to market even on the falling prices. Packers say the consumer, as usual, will pay the increase.



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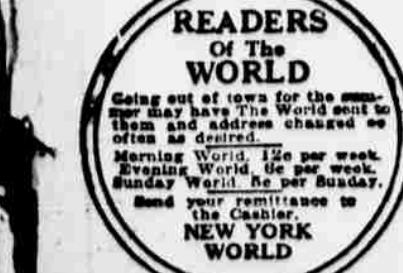
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